

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY ON 24 SEPTEMBER

FOCUSED FREQUENCIES

and

VACANCIES AT THE QSL BUREAU

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with the news of a Silent Key:

It is with great sadness we report that the key of Pam Momberg ZS1PAM/ZS6APT became silent on Friday, 17 September due to Covid-19. Pam was one of our most active YL members since she came on the air in the mid 1970's. She was a founder member of the Centurion Amateur Radio Club ZS6CEN (the erstwhile Verwoerdburg Branch of the SARL) and served on the Club's committees for many years. Pam was married to Jimmy, ZS6APS, who became a silent key in 2017. We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY ON 24 SEPTEMBER

Heritage Day and National Braai Day are celebrated on 24 September each year. This year on Friday 24 September, three amateur radio activities will take place.

ZS90TVK and the Voortrekkers. The Northern Cape Amateur Radio Club and Voortrekkers from Kimberley, Kathu, Upington and Vryburg will celebrate the 90th birthday of the Voortrekker Movement using ZS90TVK from a field station at the Big Truck in Kathu on the N14 from 10:00 to 15:00 CAT. Please contact Gerhard, ZS3TG or Roy, ZS3RW for more information.

Heritage on the Air (HOTA). Radio amateurs are encouraged to be active from historical sites on 24 September. The activity runs from 06:00 to 18:00 UTC (08:00 to 20:00 CAT) with activators giving out the grid locator and the name of the historic site. A special Activators certificate is available for activating ten (10) historical sites. Hunters must contact twenty (20) historical sites to qualify for a special Hunters certificate. Send your MS Excel log sheet to zs3vdk@webmail.co.za.

The Sprint ZS SOTA Activity Day runs from 00:00 to 23:59 CAT on Friday 24 September with activity on all amateur bands and modes. The exchange is a RS, RST or RSQ report and the SOTA reference. You can participate as an activator or a chaser. Activators and chasers are requested to upload their logs to www.sotadata.org.uk/en/ and to send a copy of the log to srtyler@mweb.co.za to claim your ZS-SOTA certificate. The scoring is no longer relevant.

THE TOKYO HAM FAIR CANCELLED

The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) has announced the cancellation of Tokyo Ham Fair 2021 scheduled for 2 and 3 October. "We were hopeful to have Ham Fair 2021 with possible preventative measures against COVID-19, but another wave of infection came in this summer," said the announcement from Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP. "Considering the worse-than-expected COVID situation, JARL reluctantly decided to cancel Ham Fair 2021. We hope that Tokyo Ham Fair can come back in 2022 under safer conditions."

FOCUSED FREQUENCIES

As amateur radio operators we are fortunate to have a wide range of frequency allocations. Most other services are limited to one band. Amateur Radio stretches from 135 kHz all the way up to light - literally. Most activity takes place between 160 metres and 23 centimetres, which all together constitute 136 MHz of spectrum. Into this wide expanse, amateur activities have grown to include CW, AM, SSB, RTTY, PSK31, ATV, SSTV, contesting, DXing, satellites, EME, ARISS, foxhunting, repeaters, emergency communications and rag-chewing to name a few. It would be impossible for all of us to enjoy all these activities without giving some structure to our bands beyond the ICASA requirements.

Our basic bands are determined by the International Telecommunications Union Radio Regulations, the Electronic Communications Act of 2005 (Act 36 of 2005) and the National Radio Frequency Plan. The SARL is a member of Region 1 (Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Northern Asia) of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and at the tri-annual General Conferences, the Permanent HF (C4) and VHF/UHF (C5) committees discuss the allocations and band plans for use by Member Societies in Region 1.

A window in the amateur bands refers to a small frequency range where, by mutual agreement, a certain type of activity takes place. For example, around 3.700 MHz there are musical transmissions in the evenings. The Maritime Mobile Net meets on 7.120 MHz and 14.316 MHz and Emergency Communication is

centred around 3.760; 5.410; 7.110; 14.300; 18.160, 21.360, 145.500 and 145.700 MHz.

We also have Centres of Activity which are specific frequencies on each band where certain activities are concentrated. For example, 5.370 MHz is the general calling frequency on 5 metres and 5.390 MHz is the Centre of Activity for SOTA, POTA, WAGS, etc. On 40 metres 7.030 MHz is the CW QRP Centre of Activity and 7.090 is the SSB QRP Centre of Activity. For SSTV on 20 metres, the CoA is 14.230 MHz and so you will see on each band allocation there are certain activities listed. As with the DX window, the calling frequencies are only meant to let amateurs with similar interests connect with one another. The calling frequency should not be used for an extended contact. Once you connect with another amateur move the contact off the calling frequency. No amateur should "hog" the frequency for an extended period!

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VACANCIES AT THE QSL BUREAU

Willem Weideman, ZS6X has informed Council that after 19 years as the QSL Manager, he wants to retire. Willem says he will train the new QSL Manager. Johan van Aarde, ZS2I in Mossel Bay, who has been dealing with the ZS1, ZS2 and ZS5 QSL cards has also said that he is retiring after contracting Covid 19.

Therefore, there is a vacancy as the SARL QSL Manager at the National Amateur Radio Centre. Also, there are vacancies for Divisional QSL Managers for ZS1, ZS2, ZS5 and the four ZS6 provinces. Dennis, ZS4BS handles cards for ZS3 and ZS4. If you are interested in helping with the SARL QSL system, please contact the SARL Secretary on secretary@sarl.org.za

AMSAT NA SHIFTS TO VIRTUAL FORMAT FOR 2021 SYMPOSIUM AND ANNUAL MEETING

The AMSAT NA 39th Space Symposium and Annual Meeting, planned as an in-person event, will now be a virtual event on Saturday 30 October, due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an opportunity for amateur-radio-in-space enthusiasts from around the world to learn more about AMSAT's Strategic Plan, the GOLF program, the CubeSat Simulator and other exciting developments in the amateur satellite world.

AMSAT NA will host its 2021 AMSAT Virtual Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting via Zoom from 14:00 to 22:00 UTC on Saturday 30 October. It will be available to the general public on AMSAT's YouTube channel at no cost. The event will be a combination of pre-recorded video segments along with live question-and-answer sessions.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There is currently a single sunspot region visible, some minor flaring activity is possible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the

expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 3. The 15 to 30 m bands will, during the early mornings and late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

21 September – the PEARS and Border ARC meetings

22 September - the Spring Equinox at 21:21 CAT

24 September – Heritage and National Braai Day; the ZS SOTA Spring Activity Day, ZS90TVK and the Voortrekkers, Heritage on the Air and registration for the October RAE closes

25 September – the CTARC meeting

25 and 26 September – the CQ WW RTTY contest

26 September – the ZS1 Sprint

28 September – the Secunda ARC meeting

1 October – the provincial Schools close

2 October – the East Rand Flea Market

2 and 3 October – the AWA AM Valve QSO Party and the AWA SSB Valve QSO Party

7 October – the SARL 80 m QSO Party

11 October – provincial schools open

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

Heritage Day and National Braai Day are celebrated on 24 September each year. This year on Friday 24 September, three amateur radio activities will take place. Listen out for ZS90TVK and the Voortrekkers from Kathu, amateurs activating heritage sites and other amateurs activating summits for SOTA.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by

courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, proof-read by Paul Johnson, ZS1S and read by

From the News team, best wishes for the week ahead.